

Current wheat prices are no better than dry pea prices, pound for pound, but a banker will lend money to a grower of wheat and oilseeds because there is a loan program and LDP. The depressed markets have forced dryland farmers across the northern tier of the United States to abandon pulses in favor of traditional farm program crops like wheat, oilseeds, and barley.

This bill attempts to remedy this situation by creating a loan rate for dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas with support equivalent to the loan programs for spring wheat and canola. The bill mirrors existing statutory authority for the loan programs established for other crops by creating floor prices based from 85 percent of a five-year Olympic average. The approximate cost of the bill, and benefits to pulse growers, would be about \$8.5 million annually.

When we passed the last farm bill, the goal was to have farmers farm the land and not the programs. As prices have dropped, we are again seeing planting decisions made based on the programs available, which has made pulse crops less attractive in a rotation. As we begin the process of reauthorizing the farm bill, we will work to make sure that pulses are included so that farmers will be competitive with other crops grown in the area.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of this amendment to the Agricultural Market Transition Act. It would require the Secretary of Agriculture to make non-recourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments available to producers of dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas.

This amendment will go a long way toward giving producers of these commodities an equal opportunity to obtain the same financial opportunities as other producers now receive.

We encourage our producers to grow what is often referred to as alternative crops. Producers have listened and they are successfully marketing these crops. The actions of this bill will now provide these innovative producers with the same economic benefits as producers of other crops. These farmers have dared to try something different and the least we can do is support them for they're daring.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this legislation.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 978. A bill to provide for improved management of, and increased accountability for, outfitted activities by which the public gains access to and occupancy and use of Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today in conjunction with my colleagues, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. THOMAS, the Outfitter Policy Act of 2001.

This legislation is very similar to legislation I introduced in past congresses. As that legislation did, this bill would put into law many of the management practices by which Federal land management agencies have successfully managed the outfitter and guide industry on National Forests, National Parks and other Federal lands over many decades.

The bill recognizes that many Americans want and seek out the skills and experience of commercial outfitters and guides to help them enjoy a safe and pleasant journey.

The Outfitter Policy Act's primary purpose is to ensure accessibility to public lands by all segments of the population and maintain the availability of quality recreation services to the public. Outfitters and guides across the nation provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for many families and groups who would otherwise find the backcountry inaccessible.

Previous hearings and discussions on prior versions of this legislation helped to refine the bill I am introducing today. This process provided the intended opportunity for discussion. As well as it allowed for the examination of the historical practices that have offered consistent, reliable outfitter services to the public.

Congress has twice addressed this issue with respect to the National Park System permits, originally establishing standards for Park Service administration of guide/outfitter permits on their lands in 1965 and amending that system in 1998. Therefore, it is appropriate to set similar legislative standards for other public land systems such as Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. However, these and other land management agencies are now without Congressional guidance, and instead rules, permit terms and conditions and other intricacies are often left to local agency personnel. The Outfitter Policy Act would alleviate the discord involved in land management permitting, providing consistent guidance on the administration of guide/outfitter permits for the other Federal land management agencies.

The Outfitter Policy Act provides the basic terms and conditions necessary to sustain the substantial investment often needed to provide the level of service demanded by the public. However, the bill provides the agencies ample flexibility to adjust use, conditions, and permit terms. All of which must be consistent with agency management plans and policies for resource

conservation. The Outfitter Policy Act strives to provide a stable, consistent regulatory climate which encourages qualified entrants to the guide/outfitting business, while giving the agencies and operators clear directions.

The Outfitter Policy Act is a measure that will facilitate access to public lands by the outfitted public, while providing incentives to outfitters to provide the high quality services over time. It is necessary to ensure that members of the public who need and rely on guides and outfitters for recreational access to public lands will continue to receive safe, quality services. I look forward to considering this legislation in the coming session of the 107th Congress.

#### STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 95—DESIGNATING AUGUST 3, 2001, AS "NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING DAY"

Mr. BREAUX submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 95

Whereas for millennia, individuals have wanted the spoken word translated into text to record history and to accomplish this task have relied on scribes;

Whereas the profession of scribe was born with the rise of civilization;

Whereas in Ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents and since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history;

Whereas scribes were present with our Nation's founding fathers as the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights were drafted;

Whereas President Lincoln entrusted scribes to record the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas since the advent of shorthand machines, these scribes have been known as "court reporters" and have had a permanent place in courtrooms;

Whereas court reporters are present in Congress, preserving Members' words and actions;

Whereas court reporters are responsible for the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, bringing information to more than 28,000,000 hearing impaired Americans every day;

Whereas court reporters and captioners translate the spoken word into text and preserve our history; and

Whereas whether called the scribes of yesterday, court reporters of today, or real time captioners of tomorrow, the individuals that preserve our Nation's history are truly the guardians of the record: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 3, 2001, as "National Court Reporting and Captioning Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.